James E. Webb

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 11

MOON LANDING

JULY 20, 1979

(This transcript was made from a tape provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

a lawyer, Naval aviator, businessman, past director of the Bureau of the Budget, and an Undersecretary of State, Administrator of N.A.S.A. and a key person in both making and implementing the decision to go to the moon, now a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution. Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. James E. Webb.

MR. WEBB : Good morning, friends. On behalf of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, its Chancellor, Chief Justice Burger, its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Dillon Ripley, I bid you welcome to this anniversary of Apollo 11 landing on the moon, which these two institutions, the Smithsonian and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, are sponsoring. Dr. Frosch will give you his own welcome in just a few moments. N.A.S.A. and the Smithsonian cooperate in many undertakings to advance and diffuse aeronautical and space knowledge.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Can't hear you.

MR. WEBB : N.A.S.A. and the Smithsonian Institution cooperate -- can you hear me now? I'm not sure I can do anything about it. If there's a technician available, maybe he should look into the sound system. But in any event, it is a great cooperative program that you see here in the National Aeronautics and Space Museum and the occasion is certainly one in which we both have played a part, in which we both say to the American people, this is an example of

what we can do as a nation when we pull ourselves together and go at it. Each institution is contributing to our nation's heritage and its capacity to develop and utilize the new powers that are unfolding in science and technology for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind as specified in the 1958 Space Act. N.A.S.A. is unique in its ability to work with scientists who recognize, in the modern rocket, a powerful new tool to explore, to measure and to understand the forces at work in the vastness of space, with engineers, who have the know-how to build and operate the complex, exotic and fast-moving rocket-powered machine on which the future of our nation may well depend. And in addition, it has the administrative and managerial competence for large scale, organized efforts of national significance. It cooperates, its cooperative working relationships with our military services, has served our nation well and contributed to both N.A.S.A.'s competence and to the successful programs of those services. The Smithsonian is unique in its activities in the increase and diffusion of knowledge and work in science and technology as well as history and the arts. While ten years is clearly too short an interval for historical perspective, I think three points are becoming increasingly clear. First, the Apollo system of organization and management got things done. And it can be adapted to meet other needs. It worked because a national process was created, at the heart

of which, many working teams, each with a responsible team leader, did its part within a vast cooperative venture, which included the executive and legislative branches of our government, large segments and industry, and many universities and scientists. This team conducted its business openly. Set-backs as well as successes were seen by the public. It was not based on any adversary procedure but on cooperation between government, industry and universities. At the maximum of the program in Apollo, several hundred thousand individuals were united for a common purpose. A national goal was clearly stated and clearly achieved. There was a national will to see this effort succeed. Second, the Apollo team brought together some of the most talented individuals in the country, increased their skills and profited from their labors. And as each segment of the Apollo program was completed, these individuals were released to undertake new ventures elsewhere, in government, at universities and within industry. The list is too far, too long to recite, but today, veterans of Apollo can be found in the halls of the United States Senate, managing large corporations, or quietly charting new directions for our space program. The (inaudible) not so famous, but such names as George Low , Sam Phillips, Rocco Petrone and Ed Cortright, while not household words, nevertheless, these men have made their contributions to the nation's households as well as to the

space effort. And there are many who we can all wish were here, Hugh Dryden, Wernher von Braun, Grissom, White and Chaffee, Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, and so many others who participated in this effort. This leads me to the third point, the diffusion of Apollo money and Apollo expertise into the worldwide economy has produced new products and given impetus to vast new enterprises. Today, worldwide communications network, linking computers and information systems, for example, are not only far superior to their predecessors but are smaller, cheaper and more reliable. Space-related know-how, now permeates the most dynamic segments of our economy. When you ask, what are the spinoffs of space, in many ways it is the thousands of individuals who learned, who contributed and then moved on to make their contributions in other parts of our national economy. President Carter has asked all citizens to say something good about our country. I would like to say, Mr. President, that the vigorous spirit of Apollo is still with those of us who see Apollo and the Space Shuttle as the beginning and not the end. Ten years has not diminished the pride and the wonder people all around the world felt when two explorers from Spaceship Earth, touched the face of another planet for the first time. And with this spirit, as we enter the challenging era of the space shuttle and look beyond Jupiter and Saturn for new knowledge, we confidently assert we can do whatever is needed to assure our

nation's future in space. The N.A.S.A. team of ten years ago is represented here by the three Apollo crew members. The N.A.S.A. team of today and tomorrow is represented by Dr. Frosch, his deputy, Dr. Alan Lovelace and the crew selected for the first shuttle orbital flight. Now as I turn the program over to Dr. Lovelace, I would like to say what a pleasure it is to see so many old friends in the audience and to welcome all of you to the Smithsonian Institution. Thank you.

DR. LOVELACE: Ladies and gentlemen, 10 years ago, in sight and sound of earth two hundred and thirty thousand miles away, the initial footprints in the moon's dusty Sea of Tranquility, marked the fulfillment of a national goal. Americans became the first humans to enter the realm of another celestial body. A decade-long struggle had succeeded and the deadline set by President Kennedy had been met. Apollo 11 signalled not an end but a beginning in terms of its particular contribution to the future of humankind. It was a doorway to further ventures to benefit the peoples of the world. We are fortunate to be living in a technological age that allows us to capture the critical scenes and sounds of history while they're being made. We can listen again to that doorway into the future being opened. May I have the tape, please.

TAPE: Seventy-five feet. Pitch forward. Lights on. Down two and a half. Thirty feet down. Two and a half.